

In the Claims:

1-123. Canceled.

4. ~~124~~. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:
- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
  - (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;
  - (c) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376;
  - (d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or
  - (e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092.

5. ~~125~~. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~<sup>4</sup> comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377.

6. ~~126~~. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~<sup>4</sup> comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide.

127-128. Canceled.

7. ~~129~~. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~<sup>4</sup> comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376.

8. ~~130~~. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~<sup>4</sup> comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376.

9. ~~131~~. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~<sup>4</sup> comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092.

132-134. Canceled.

10. ~~135~~. (Currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~<sup>1</sup> or ~~141~~<sup>4</sup> 139.

11. ~~136~~<sup>10</sup>. (Previously presented) The vector of Claim ~~135~~<sup>10</sup>, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

12. ~~137~~<sup>10</sup>. (Previously presented) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim ~~135~~<sup>10</sup>.

13. ~~138~~<sup>12</sup>. (Previously presented) The host cell of Claim ~~137~~<sup>12</sup>, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.

139-140. Canceled.

1. ~~141~~. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide ~~according to Claim 139~~ having at least 90% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
  - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;
  - (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or
  - (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;
- wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

2. ~~142~~<sup>1</sup>. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to Claim ~~141~~<sup>1</sup> ~~139~~ having at least 95% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
  - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;
  - (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or
  - (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;
- wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

3. ~~143~~<sup>141</sup>. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to Claim ~~141~~<sup>139</sup> having at least 99% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
  - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;
  - (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or
  - (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;
- wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.